

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47), the ranking female member on the House Armed Services Committee, today issued the following statement regarding reports that millions of dollars in student loan repayments and incentives for active duty soldiers have been misspent:

"I am deeply concerned by new reports that members of the California National Guard have been essentially running a slush fund, doling out as much as \$100 million to soldiers who did not qualify for federally subsidized student-loan repayments and cash bonuses. It is even more disturbing to me that these illegal payments were repeatedly made over a sixteen month period without even raising an eyebrow.

"I anxiously await the results of the current criminal investigation into these highly disturbing allegations. I am also calling for a further investigation into how fraud of this magnitude could have escaped notice. Unfortunately, this kind of waste and abuse reflects poorly on the California National's Guard's decades of service."